



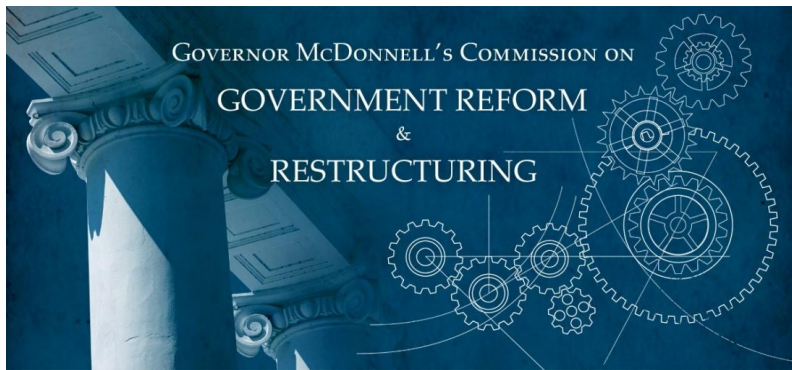
## COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

*Recommendations to the Governor's Commission on*

*Government Reform & Restructuring*

**November 18, 2010**

- Direct the Virginia Department of Education to examine state laws and regulations in education to determine:
  - Those that are required under federal law, those not required, and those that exceed federal requirements;
  - Which unfunded regulations or mandates should be eliminated;
  - Which unfunded regulations or mandates should be funded by the Commonwealth.
- Identify the core services to be delivered by the Commonwealth and its localities through a study committee. Potential routes include a study group made up of state legislators, state agency heads, local elected officials and local administrators; or assignment of the task to the Council on Virginia's Future, with staff support to be provided by Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, the Commission on Local Governments and local stakeholders.
- Consider establishing alternatives to publication in a newspaper of general circulation for legal ads and other notices, such as allowing publication in at least two of the following forms of publications: (i) newspaper of general circulation in the locality, including online newspapers, if any; (ii) locality's website and community/neighborhood websites; (iii) public access channel operated by the locality, to be aired during prime time programming and at least two other times during the day; (iv) postings at a local public library; or (v) other public communication.
- Change the certified and registered mail requirements for notices by local government to allow notice via regular mail to the last address available through government records, most importantly for mailings following the first notice. Requirements to use certified and registered mail unnecessarily increase the cost of notices. The Commonwealth of



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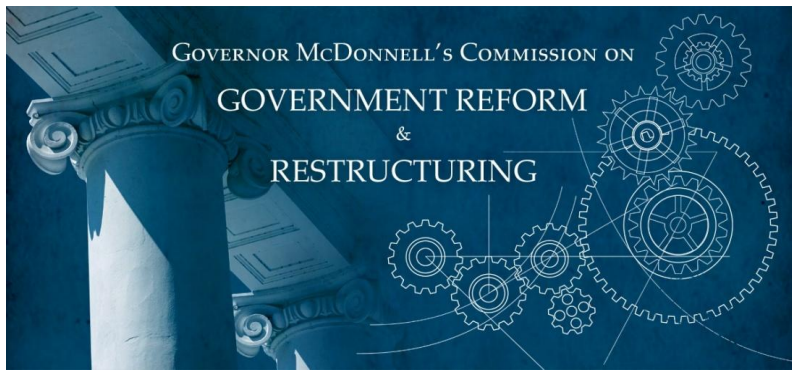
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Virginia now sends many drivers license renewals and licenses via regular mail - not registered mail. Despite the increased scrutiny of license issues and photos in the wake of security enhancements since September 11, 2001, the renewals and licenses are still sent via regular mail.

- Grant local governments the authority to provide for the cutting of grass and weeds on properties within their boundaries.
- Permit localities to perform review and issuance of permitting for bus shelters.
- Develop an expedited process for installation of bus shelters.
- Permit localities the ability to determine the color of local public vehicles.
- Establish a blanket permit process for transportation agencies for small improvement and construction projects that do not exceed a set amount.
- Grant localities the authority to install Watch for Children and school speed zone signs.
- Exempt new bike and pedestrian trails adjacent to existing roadways from storm water runoff regulations, provided that the locality ensures that no increased water runoff occurs.



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### UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

**November 16, 2010**

As requested by the Governor's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring, the Council on Virginia's Future is examining opportunities to promote greater regional collaboration in order to help each of the Commonwealth's regions become more efficient, effective, and economically competitive. A report on Phase I will be completed by April 30, 2011.

The elements of the report will include a high-level assessment of the current state in Virginia, a review of successes and best practices in Virginia and other states and nations, and a summary of core issues and the opportunities for further analysis.

Meetings have been held to define an approach that includes reaching out to knowledgeable leaders and subject matter experts and crystallizing the lessons learned from success stories and best practices. The Council is committed to an inclusive process engaging a wide range of stakeholders and leaders.

### **Recommendation from the Interim October 15, 2010 Commission Report:**

*Direct the Council on Virginia's Future, with stakeholder input, to proceed with a validation study and gap analysis to determine the need of increased regional cooperation. The study will seek to find ways to foster increased:*

- *Efficiency by reducing variations in process, purchasing, and operating approaches across localities and taking aggressive advantage of economies of scale where available.*
- *Effectiveness by promoting new approaches, systems, and partnerships to rationalize service delivery and improve important outcomes*
- *Economic competitiveness by facilitating stronger partnerships among localities to enhance the attractiveness of the region to new and expanding businesses.*
- *The Council should report to the Commission its findings by April 30, 2011.*